

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
(X) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to Buenos Aires

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

11/29/79

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November 29, 1979

*Argentina*

Rabbi Morton M. Rosenthal  
Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith  
823 United Nations Plaza  
New York, New York 10017

Dear Rabbi Rosenthal:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 13, 1979. As you can well imagine the granting of the right of option to Jaime Lokman was greeted at the Embassy too with great satisfaction.

I was puzzled though by your reference to threats of retaliation directed against others in Argentina in the event that Jacobo Timerman speaks out against the government of Argentina. The Department of State raised the same question in a recent cable to me, to which I replied that no threats had come to my attention. Last night I saw my Israeli colleague at a reception and he reconfirmed what we had heard earlier: that the Israeli Embassy here was unaware of threats of retaliation.

I'd like to learn more about this from you. My own thought is that any outrage against the Jewish community here would be denounced by responsible members of the Argentine government, as was the bomb attack against the rabbinical seminary in September. The timing of that of course leads us to suspect that it was related to Timerman's release, and reminds us of the sad fact that anti-Semitism is alive and well in Argentina. This figures, of course, in the atmosphere of lawlessness and violence that long has prevailed here. We firmly believe however that there has been a notable decrease of this so far this year, and we are hopeful that this trend will continue.

I and other members of the Embassy on several recent occasions have taken up the Sargovi case with the GOA. We will of course continue to do so. His case, I agree, is especially deserving.

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Box 17400

Finally, we will add the Rey case to those we discuss with the government of Argentina.

Sincerely,

Raul H. Castro  
Ambassador

cc: Ms. Patricia Derian ✓  
Mr. Gerald Whitman